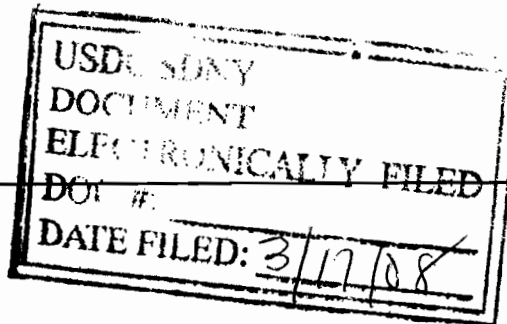


U.S. Department of Justice



United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York



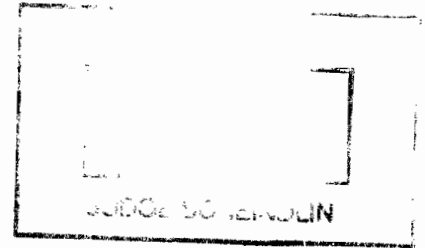
86 Chambers Street  
New York, New York 10007

March 14, 2008

By Hand

Honorable Shira A. Scheindlin  
United States District Court Judge  
United States Courthouse  
500 Pearl Street, Room 1620  
New York, New York 10007

Re: Valerie Ruffin v. Astrue  
08 Civ. 00108 (SAS)



Dear Judge Scheindlin:

This Office represents the Commissioner of Social Security, defendant in the above-referenced action. During my preparation of defendant's answer, I encountered several issues that required that I seek more information from the Agency. Therefore, I respectfully request a sixty-day extension of time from March 17, 2008, until May 16, 2008, to respond to the complaint.

This is defendant's first request for an extension of time. This Office contacted plaintiff pro se regarding this request, and she declined to consent because she felt defendant has sufficient time to respond to the complaint.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully,

MICHAEL J. GARCIA  
United States Attorney

By:

Leslie A. Ramirez-Fisher  
LESLIE A. RAMIREZ-FISHER  
Assistant U.S. Attorney  
Telephone: (212) 637-0378  
Fax: (212) 637-2750

cc: Valerie Ruffin, Plaintiff Pro Se (By Mail)

*Request granted.*  
*The government's response is due no later than May 16, 2008. No adjournments will be granted.*  
*So Ordered:*  
*[Signature]*  
*USDC*  
*3/17/08*